

**Audio Transcript: United States Department of Justice Community Relations Service**

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**Meet The Directors: Synthia Taylor – Southwestern Region**

**10/08/2014**

Hello and thank you for visiting the CRS Southwestern Regional page. My name is Synthia Taylor, Regional Director of the CRS Southwestern Regional Office. We serve the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The Community Relations Service is the Department of Justice’s “peacemaker” for community conflicts related to race, color, and national origin—such as allegations of racial profiling, excessive use of force, and disparate treatment in schools. We also help communities address and prevent hate crimes involving race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and disability.

Our regional team has assisted communities in conflict during historical events such as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and when James Byrd, Jr. was killed in a brutal hate crime in Jasper TX. Our team works with urban and rural communities to develop best practices related to improving communication, strengthening relationships, and building stronger partnerships.

With the Regional Office located in Dallas, as well as a Field Office in Houston, our staff is ideally situated in the center of the great Southwest. I invite you to contact us at either office for more information regarding the services CRS can provide to assist your community.